

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

Open Access

Impaired fasting glucose is associated with increased perioperative cardiovascular event rates in patients undergoing major non-cardiothoracic surgery

Murat Biteker^{1*}, Akin Dayan², Mehmet M Can³, Erkan İlhan⁴, Funda S Biteker⁵, Ahmet Tekkeşin¹ and Dursun Duman¹

Abstract

Background: Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a well-established risk factor for perioperative cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery. However, the impact of preoperative glucose levels on perioperative cardiovascular outcomes in patients undergoing nonemergent, major noncardiothoracic surgery is unclear.

Methods and Results: A total of 680 patients undergoing noncardiothoracic surgery were prospectively evaluated. Patients older than 18 years who underwent an elective, nonday case, open surgical procedure were enrolled. Electrocardiography and cardiac biomarkers were obtained 1 day before surgery, and on days 1, 3 and 7 after surgery. Preoperative risk factors and laboratory test results were measured and evaluated for their association with the occurrence of in-hospital perioperative cardiovascular events. Impaired fasting glucose (IFG) defined as fasting plasma glucose values of 100 to 125 mg/dl; DM was defined as fasting plasma glucose ≥ 126 mg/dl and/or plasma glucose ≥ 200 mg/dl or the current use of blood glucose-lowering medication, and glucose values below 100 mg/dl were considered normal. Plasma glucose levels were significantly higher in patients with perioperative cardiovascular events ($n = 80$, 11.8%) in comparison to those without cardiovascular events (131 ± 42.5 vs 106.5 ± 37.5 , $p < 0.0001$). Multivariate analysis revealed that patients with IFG and DM were at 2.1- and 6.4-fold increased risk of perioperative cardiovascular events, respectively. Every 10 mg/dl increase in preoperative plasma glucose levels was related to a 11% increase for adverse perioperative cardiovascular events.

Conclusions: Not only DM but also IFG is associated with increased perioperative cardiovascular event rates in patients undergoing noncardiothoracic surgery.

Keywords: noncardiothoracic surgery, preoperative glucose levels, cardiovascular complications

Background

Patients undergoing major noncardiac surgery are at high risk of cardiovascular complications [1]. Diabetes mellitus (DM) and hyperglycemia are risk factors for adverse perioperative cardiac and noncardiac events [2-5]. In patients with known DM, the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is increased with increasing plasma glucose

concentration. Each 1% increase in glycated haemoglobin (HbA 1c) level was associated with a 14% increase in the incidence of fatal and nonfatal myocardial infarction [6]. However, more recently the emphasis has shifted from diabetes to new-onset hyperglycemia [7]. Pre-diabetes represents a metabolic stage intermediate between normal glucose hemostasis and DM [7]. Although DM has been recognized as an independent predictor of perioperative cardiovascular outcomes, the prognosis of non-diabetic patients with impaired glucose regulation is not clear. The relationship between preoperative glucose

* Correspondence: murbit2@yahoo.com

¹Haydarpaşa Numune Education and Research Hospital, Department of Cardiology, Istanbul, Turkey
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

levels and perioperative adverse cardiovascular events in noncardiac surgical patients is not evaluated in prospective, randomized studies. This study was conducted to elucidate the association between preoperative glucose levels with perioperative cardiovascular events in patients undergoing major noncardiac, nonvascular surgery.

Methods

Study design and patient population

This study was conducted during a 1-year period in 2010 at Haydarpasa Numune Education and Research Hospital. This hospital is a tertiary medical center in Istanbul/Turkey. After approval by the institutional review board, 680 consecutive patients, aged 18 yr or older, presenting for anesthetic and noncardiothoracic, nonvascular surgery, were included in the study. Written informed consent was obtained from each patient before entry into the study. Patients presenting for surgery requiring only local anesthesia or monitored anesthesia care and day case surgical procedures were excluded. Emergent surgical cases and the patients with an American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) classification 5 (moribund, not expected to live 24 h irrespective of operation) were also excluded [8]. The type of surgery was classified and categorized according to the surgical risk, determined using the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) classification [9]. Intermediate-risk surgery was defined as surgery with a cardiac risk of 1-5%, and included head and neck surgery, intraperitoneal and intrathoracic surgery, orthopaedic and prostate surgery. In our study patients, major gastrointestinal surgery (laparotomy, advanced bowel surgery, gastric surgery), major gynaecological cancer surgery (abdominal hysterectomy and oophorectomy for cancer), and major open or transurethral urological surgery (cystectomy, radical nephrectomy, total prostatectomy), head and neck surgery, hip or knee arthroplasty were included. Intrathoracic surgery is not performed in our institution.

Risk assessment, preoperative preparation and drug therapy and postoperative follow-up were completed according to current ACC/AHA guidelines [9]. For each patient, preoperative risk factors of morbidity and mortality, patients' characteristics, preoperative medication and intraoperative data were prospectively evaluated. In the preoperative period, classification of the ASA was used as a composite index of a patient's general status [8]. The Revised Cardiac Risk Index (RCRI) was used for prediction of cardiac risk based on six prognostic factors: high-risk type of surgery (defined as intraperitoneal, intrathoracic, or suprainguinal vascular procedures), ischemic heart disease, congestive heart failure, history of cerebrovascular disease, insulin therapy for diabetes, and preoperative serum creatinine > 2.0 mg/dl [10]. Each of the prognostic factors assigned as one point. Anesthetic

management, monitoring, and other aspects of perioperative management were at the discretion of the attending physician.

Electrocardiography (12-lead) and cardiac biomarkers (creatinine kinase-MB and troponin I) were evaluated 1 day before surgery, immediately after surgery, and on postoperative days 1, 3 and 7.

All patients were fasting ≥ 8 h and were scheduled to have their surgery in the morning. Baseline glucose measurements were obtained during preoperative assessment at a central laboratory. Blood samples were obtained using venipuncture with minimal stasis. Glucose was enzymatically determined using the Hexokinase method (Boehringer, Mannheim, Germany). Information was obtained on history of diabetes and use of blood glucose-lowering treatment. Impaired fasting glucose (IFG), and DM were defined according to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) criteria [7];

- Patients with a known history of DM, a preoperative fasting blood glucose level ≥ 126 mg/dl, or 2 or more outpatient random blood glucose levels ≥ 200 mg/dl or the current use of blood glucose-lowering medication were classified into the DM group,
- Impaired fasting glucose defined as fasting plasma glucose values of 100 to 125 mg per/dl and,
- Fasting glucose values below 100 mg per/dl were considered normal.

Our protocol for peri-operative blood glucose control was based on the Alberti Regimen which involves the use of an intravenous infusion of a pre-mixed bag of glucose-insuline-potassium [11].

Study end-points

Patients were followed up by the consulting physician until discharge after surgery. The perioperative cardiovascular events were defined as the occurrence of severe arrhythmias requiring treatment, cardiac death (death caused by acute myocardial infarction, significant cardiac arrhythmias, refractory congestive heart failure or as a death occurring suddenly without another explanation), acute heart failure, acute coronary syndrome (nonfatal acute myocardial infarction or unstable angina), pulmonary thromboembolism, nonfatal cardiac arrest, and cardioembolic stroke. Myocardial infarction is diagnosed when the following criteria are present: detection of a rise of troponin with at least one value above the 99th percentile of the upper reference limit together with evidence of myocardial ischemia as recognized by at least one of the following: symptoms of ischemia, ECG changes of new ischemia or development of pathologic Q waves, or new regional wall motion abnormality according to the universal definition of myocardial infarction [12]. This single-center cohort

study was approved by the ethical committee at the authors' institution.

Statistical Analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS for Windows (version 15, SPSS Inc, Chicago, Illinois). The continuous variables were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation and were compared between groups by two-tailed Student *t* test. Nonparametric tests were also used when necessary (Mann-Whitney *U* test). Fisher Exact (Chi-square) test was used in comparison of categorical variables. For all analyses, $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were applied to determine crude and adjusted odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the relation between preoperative glucose levels and perioperative cardiovascular adverse events.

Results

Seven hundred patients were initially included in the study. Eleven patients were excluded because of insufficient data and nine patients were excluded because of an emergency operation. The baseline clinical and demographic characteristics of the patients with normal glucose levels ($n = 344$, 50.6%), IFG ($n = 132$, 19.4%) and DM ($n = 204$, 30%) are presented in Table 1, and perioperative characteristics are presented in Table 2. There were no significant difference regarding the type of surgical procedure, age, gender, and body mass index between patients with normal glucose levels, impaired glucose regulation, and diabetes.

Prevalence of coronary/peripheral artery disease, hypertension, and congestive heart failure was higher in diabetic patients compared with patients who had impaired glucose regulation. Patients with impaired glucose regulation had also higher prevalence of coronary/peripheral artery disease, hypertension, and congestive heart failure compared with normoglycemic patients. New York Heart Association functional capacity, ASA status, and RCRI were worse in patients with DM compared to patients with impaired glucose regulation, and in patients with impaired glucose regulation compared to normoglycemic patients. Preoperative use of beta blocker, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, statins and aspirin was higher in patients with DM compared to patients with impaired glucose regulation, and in patients with impaired glucose regulation compared to patients with normal glucose levels.

Preoperative glucose levels and perioperative cardiovascular events

A total of 80 patients (11.8%) had perioperative cardiovascular complications (Table 3). Fifty of the patients with DM (24.5%), 13 of the patients with impaired glucose tolerance (9.8%), and 17 of the patients with normal glucose

levels (5%) had adverse perioperative cardiovascular events ($p < 0.001$) (Figure 1). Distribution of adverse events were similar in patients with normal glucose levels, impaired fasting glucose levels, and DM ($p = 0.51$) (Table 3). Median preoperative plasma glucose levels were significantly higher in patients with adverse perioperative cardiovascular events compared to patients with no cardiovascular events (124 [range 131 \pm 42.5] vs 196 [106.5 \pm 37.5], $p < 0.001$).

The median plasma glucose levels of patients with adverse perioperative cardiovascular events were significantly different in the three patient groups (148 mg/dl [84-286] in diabetic patients, 114 mg/dl [100-125] in patients with IFG, and 86 mg/dl [73-97] in normoglycemic patients, $p < 0.001$). Univariate analysis showed a significant association between age, DM, IFG, coronary artery disease, preoperative atrial fibrillation, American Society of Anesthesiologists status, Revised Cardiac Risk Index and perioperative cardiovascular events. On multivariate logistic regression analysis DM and IFG remained as significant variables associated with perioperative cardiovascular complications. Patients with impaired glucose regulation and DM were at 2.1-fold (adjusted OR 2.1 and 95% CI 0.99-4.49; $p < 0.04$), and 6.4-fold (adjusted OR 6.4 and 95% CI 3.57-11.48; $p < 0.001$) increased risk for perioperative cardiovascular events, respectively. Every 10 mg/dl increase in preoperative plasma glucose levels was related to a 11% increase for adverse perioperative cardiovascular events.

Discussion

Our study demonstrated that increased preoperative glucose levels are associated with adverse perioperative cardiovascular events in patients undergoing major noncardiac surgery. Not only DM, but also impaired glucose regulation was associated with an increased incidence of perioperative cardiovascular complications.

Recent data indicate that postprandial hyperglycemia or even impaired glucose tolerance may predispose to progression of atherosclerosis and cardiovascular events [13]. However, the prognostic role of impaired glucose tolerance in noncardiac surgery patients is not fully elucidated. Although DM has been recognized as an independent predictor of perioperative cardiovascular complications in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery only a few studies take preoperative glucose levels into account. The association between preoperative glucose levels and perioperative cardiac and noncardiac complications is, however, controversial. Velanovich [14] found that an abnormal preoperative glucose value was an independent predictor of postoperative bleeding, whereas McKee and Scott demonstrated the association of postoperative complications with any preoperative laboratory abnormalities [15]. Dzankic et al. evaluated the prevalence and predictive value of

Table 1 Baseline clinical and demographic characteristics

	All patients (n = 680)	Normal glucose (n = 344)	Impaired fasting glucose (n = 132)	Diabetes mellitus (n = 204)	P value
Age	65,4 ± 14	62,5 ± 15,6	68,9 ± 11,9	67,8 ± 11,3	0,328
Male	358(52,6)	173(50,3)	66(50)	119(58,3)	0,151
Body mass index	28,3 ± 12,2	27,6 ± 5,5	27,4 ± 3,8	30,2 ± 20,8	0,146
ASA status	1 2 3 4	117(17,2) 344(50,6) 166(24,4) 53(7,8)	88(25,6) 182(52,9) 54(15,7) 20(5,8)	18(13,8) 76(57,6) 27(20,5) 11(8,3)	0 97(47,5)
Hypertension	375(55,1)	152(44,2)	79(59,8)	144(70,6)	< 0,001
Current smoking	100(14,7)	51(14,8)	17(12,9)	32(15,7)	0,66
Coronary artery disease	182(26,8)	64(18,6)	29(22)	89(43,6)	< 0,001
Heart failure	69(10,1)	20(5,8)	16(12,1)	33(16,2)	< 0,001
History of CVA	65(9,6)	24(7)	16(12,1)	25(12,3)	0,068
Atrial fibrillation	82(12,1)	43(12,5)	13(9,8)	26(12,7)	0,683
NYHA functional class	1 2 3 4	426(62,6) 235(34,6) 18(2,6) 1(0,1)	233(67,7) 108(31,4) 3(0,9) 0(0)	85(64,4) 45(34,1) 2(1,5) 0(0)	108(52,9) 82(40,2) 13(6,4) 1(0,5)
Revised cardiac risk index	0 1 2 3 4	95(14) 313(46) 195(28,7) 70(10,3) 7(1)	63(18,3) 187(54,4) 75(21,8) 19(5,5) 0(0)	19(14,4) 57(43,2) 45(34,1) 10(7,6) 1(0,8)	13(6,4) 69(33,8) 75(36,8) 41(20,1) 6(2,9)

Abbreviations: ASA = American Society of Anesthesiologists; CVA = cerebrovascular accident; NYHA = New York Heart Association. Values are given as mean ± SD or number (percentage).

abnormal preoperative laboratory tests in 544 consecutive patients ≥ 70 yr old who were undergoing noncardiac surgery [16]. Abnormal hemoglobin, creatinine, and glucose values were not predictive of postoperative adverse outcomes. Only ASA classification and surgical risk were significant independent predictors of postoperative adverse outcomes.

Feringa et al. investigated whether impaired glucose regulation and elevated glycated HbA 1c levels are associated with increased cardiac ischaemic events in vascular surgery patients [17]. They have measured baseline glucose and HbA 1c levels in 401 vascular surgery patients. Using subjects with normal glucose levels as the reference category, multivariate analysis revealed that patients with impaired glucose regulation and diabetes were at 2.2- and 2.6-fold increased risk of ischaemia, 3.8- and 3.9-fold for troponin release, 4.3- and 4.8-fold for 30-day cardiac events, and 1.9- and 3.1-fold for long-term cardiac events. Patients with HbA 1c > 7.0% were at 2.8-fold, 2.1-fold, 5.3-fold and 5.6-fold increased risk for ischaemia, troponin release, 30-day and long-term cardiac events, respectively. This study demonstrated the value of preoperative glucose and HbA1c in defining perioperative and long-term risk in vascular surgery patients.

Impaired glucose regulation is a term that refers to blood glucose levels that are above the normal range but

are not high enough for the diagnosis of DM [7]. This term is used to describe the presence of IFG and/or impaired glucose tolerance, which are intermediate states of abnormal glucose regulation that exist between normal blood glucose levels and DM. Both IFG and impaired glucose tolerance are risk factors for the subsequent development of both DM and cardiovascular disease [18-21]. However, it is unclear whether IFG or impaired glucose tolerance are independent risk factors in the development of cardiovascular complications in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery.

Dunkelgrun et al. showed that the prevalence of undiagnosed impaired glucose tolerance and DM is high in vascular surgery patients. Of 404 patients without histories of impaired glucose tolerance and DM, 26% had impaired glucose tolerance and 11% diabetes [22]. Furthermore, the presence of DM significantly predicted the risk for perioperative cardiac ischemia (OR = 3.2, 95%CI 1.3-8.1). Kuijk et al. also showed that the patients with impaired glucose tolerance had adverse prognosis even worse than that of patients with DM in vascular surgery patients [23]. Noordzij et al. undertook a retrospective case-control study among 904 cases and 1247 controls who underwent noncardiac, nonvascular surgical procedures in the Erasmus MC [24]. In this study, they showed that prediabetes glucose levels had a 3-fold

Table 2 Perioperative characteristics

	All patients (n = 680)	Normal glucose (n = 344)	Impaired fasting glucose (n = 132)	Diabetes mellitus (n = 204)	P value
Beta-blocker	157(23,1)	61(17,7)	33(25)	63(30,9)	0,002
Calcium inhibitor	99(14,6)	51(14,8)	16(12,1)	32(15,7)	0,651
ACE inhibitor	180(26,5)	75(21,8)	37(28)	68(33,3)	0,011
Furosemid	21(3,1)	10(2,9)	7(5,3)	4(2)	0,216
Thiazid	22(3,2)	10(2,9)	4(3)	8(3,9)	0,801
Spinolactone	20(2,9)	8(2,3)	6(4,5)	6(2,9)	0,439
Aspirin	146(21,5)	47(13,7)	27(20,5)	72(35,3)	< 0,001
Statin	67(9,9)	17(4,9)	7(5,3)	43(21,1)	< 0,001
Digoxin	25(3,7)	10(2,9)	7(5,3)	8(3,9)	0,450
Anticoagulant	31(4,6)	11(3,2)	9(6,8)	11(5,4)	0,188
ARB	60(8,8)	25(7,3)	9(6,8)	26(12,7)	0,061
	General	288(42,4)	143(41,6)	58(43,9)	87(42,6)
	Urology	131(19,3)	70(20,3)	25(18,9)	36(17,6)
	Plastics	32(4,7)	17(4,9)	7(5,3)	8(3,9)
Type of surgery	Gynecological	33(4,9)	18(5,2)	5(3,8)	10(4,9)
	Orthopedic	160(23,5)	77(22,4)	35(26,5)	48(23,5)
	Ophthalmologic	9(1,3)	4(1,2)	2(1,5)	3(1,5)
	Neurological	19(2,8)	11(3,2)	1(0,8)	7(3,4)
	Ear/nose/throat	8(1,2)	4(1,2)	2(1,5)	2(1)
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	143,4 ± 75,9	141,3 ± 85,5	137,9 ± 55,8	150,5 ± 69,4	0,182
High density lipoprotein (mg/dl)	45,6 ± 17,4	46,4 ± 18,4	45 ± 15,7	44,6 ± 16,7	0,323
Low density lipoprotein (mg/dl)	108,8 ± 32,7	107,4 ± 32,1	114,3 ± 36,3	107,6 ± 31	0,148
Creatinine (mg/dl)	1,2 ± 1,4	1,2 ± 1,6	1,2 ± 1,2	1,2 ± 1,1	0,163
Fasting glucose (mg/dl)	109,4 ± 38,7	86,8 ± 8,6	109,6 ± 7,3	147,6 ± 50,1	< 0,001

Abbreviations: ACE = Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB = angiotensin II-receptor blocker. Values are given as mean ± SD or number (percentage).

increased cardiovascular mortality and diabetes glucose levels had a 4-fold increased cardiovascular mortality risk. In subjects with prediabetes glucose levels, a continuously increasing risk of perioperative mortality was observed along with increasing glucose concentration and each 1 mmol/l increase was associated with a 19% risk increase for mortality. The results of this study is important to show that prediabetes glucose levels in patients without a history of diabetes were also associated with increased perioperative cardiovascular death.

Although our study differs from the Noordzij et al. study with its prospective design, we have also showed that the patients with impaired glucose regulation undergoing noncardiac, nonvascular surgery are at risk for developing cardiovascular complications.

Recently, Hatzakorjian et al. observed fasting hyperglycemia in > 25% of presumably non-diabetic patients presenting for elective surgery [25]. However, they have not evaluated the significance of preoperative IFG on peri-operative cardiovascular outcomes. In the current

Table 3 Adverse perioperative cardiovascular events

		All patients (n = 680)	Normal glucose (n = 344)	Impaired fasting glucose (n = 132)	Diabetes mellitus (n = 204)	P value
PCE	No	600(88,2)	327(95)	119(90,2)	154(75,5)	< 0,001
	Yes	80(11,8)	17(5)	13(9,8)	50(24,5)	
	Acute coronary syndrome	24(30)	6(35,3)	6(46,2)	12(24)	
	Severe arrhythmia	12(15)	2(11,8)	1(7,7)	9(18)	
Distrubition of PCE	Nonfatal cardiac arrest	5(6,3)	1(5,9)	1(7,7)	3(6)	0,512
	Cardiovascular death	5(6,3)	1(5,9)	0(0)	4(8)	
	Cardioembolic stroke	10(12,5)	1(5,9)	2(15,4)	7(14)	
	Pulmonary embolism	7(8,8)	4(23,5)	0(0)	3(6)	
	Acute heart failure	17(21,3)	2(11,8)	3(23,1)	12(24)	

Abbreviations: PCE = Perioperative cardiovascular adverse event. Values are given as mean ± SD or number (percentage)

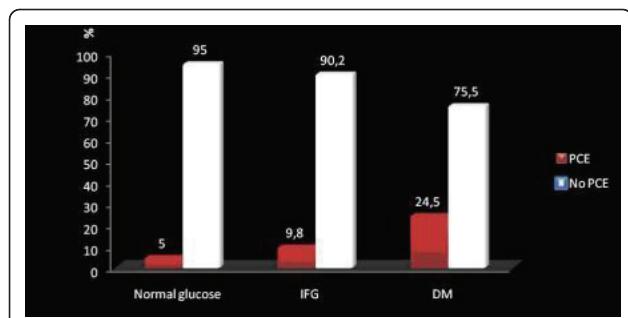


Figure 1 Perioperative adverse cardiovascular events (PCE) in patient groups.

study, 19.4% of our patients presenting for elective non-cardiac surgery had fasting blood glucose levels compatible with IFG, and 30% of the patients had DM. Although the prevalence of DM and IFG is higher than the world wide [26], our population consisted of patients with a mean age of 65 years and undergoing surgery in a tertiary center.

Study Limitations

Our study did not address the question of whether treatment of hyperglycemia may reduce the high morbidity and mortality associated with hyperglycemia in patients with IFG or DM. The second limitation of our study is that we were not able to determine the percentage of patients with latent DM because of the lack of hemoglobin A1C testing and the lack of follow-up after discharge. Stress- induced hyperglycemia, could have partly contributed to elevated fasting blood glucose levels. However, it was not possible to differentiate between stress-induced perioperative hyperglycemia and blood glucose rise associated with preexisting glycemic disease.

Conclusions

In conclusion, this study shows that impaired glucose regulation and DM are risk factors for perioperative cardiovascular events in noncardiac surgery patients. The results of our study suggest that screening for glucose dysregulation in these patients should be part of standard preoperative testing. However, the value of screening for dysglycaemia and the benefits of aggressive glucose management require further prospective, randomized studies.

Author details

¹Haydarpaşa Numune Education and Research Hospital, Department of Cardiology, Istanbul, Turkey. ²Haydarpaşa Numune Education and Research Hospital, Department of Family Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey. ³Gata Haydarpaşa Military Education and Research Hospital, Department of Cardiology, Istanbul, Turkey. ⁴Siyami Ersek Cardiovascular Surgery Center, Department of Cardiology, Istanbul, Turkey. ⁵Kartal Dr Lutfi Kırdar Education and Research

Hospital, Department of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology, Istanbul, Turkey.

Authors' contributions

MB: Performing measurements, writing manuscript.
AD, AT, DD: Performing measurements, discussion of manuscript.
MMC: Discussion of data analysis and manuscript.
EI, FSB: Helping to set up methodology, discussion of data and manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Received: 6 May 2011 Accepted: 14 July 2011 Published: 14 July 2011

References

1. Poldermans D, Hoeks SE, Feringa HH: Preoperative risk assessment and risk reduction before surgery. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2008, **51**(20):1913-1924.
2. Ramos M, Khalpey Z, Lipsitz S, Steinberg J, Panizales MT, Zinner M, Rogers SO: Relationship of perioperative hyperglycemia and postoperative infections in patients who undergo general and vascular surgery. *Ann Surg* 2008, **248**:585-591.
3. Poldermans D, Bax JJ, Boersma E, De Hert S, Eeckhout E, Fowkes G, Gorenk B, Hennerici MG, Jung B, Kelm M, Kjeldsen KP, Kristensen SD, Lopez-Sendon J, Pelosi P, Philippe F, Pierard L, Ponikowski P, Schmid JP, Sellevold OF, Sicari R, Van den Berghe G, Vermassen F: Guidelines for preoperative cardiac risk assessment and perioperative cardiac management in non-cardiac surgery. Task Force for Preoperative Cardiac Risk Assessment and Perioperative Cardiac Management in Non-cardiac Surgery, European Society of Cardiology (ESC). *Eur Heart J* 2009, **30**(22):2769-812.
4. Fisman EZ, Motro M, Tenenbaum A, Boyko V, Mandelzweig L, Behar S: Impaired fasting glucose concentrations in nondiabetic patients with ischemic heart disease: a marker for a worse prognosis. *Am Heart J* 2001, **141**(3):485-90.
5. Halkos ME, Puskas JD, Lattouf OM, Kilgo P, Kerendi F, Song HK, Guyton RA, Thourani VH: Elevated preoperative hemoglobin A1c level is predictive of adverse events after coronary artery bypass surgery. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2008, **136**:631-640.
6. Stratton IM, Adler AI, Neil HA, Matthews DR, Manley SE, Cull CA, Hadden D, Turner RC, Holman RR: Association of glycaemia with macrovascular and microvascular complications of type 2 diabetes (UKPDS 35): prospective observational study. *British Medical Journal* 2000, **321**:405-412.
7. Diagnosis and classification of diabetes mellitus. *Diabetes Care* 2006, **29**(Suppl 1):S43-S48.
8. American Society of Anesthesiologists: New classification of physical status. *Anesthesiology* 1963, **24**:11.
9. Fleisher LA, Beckman JA, Brown KA, Calkins H, Chaikof E, Fleischmann KE, Freeman WK, Froehlich JB, Kasper EK, Kersten JR, Riegel B, Robb JF, Smith SC Jr, Jacobs AK, Adams CD, Anderson JL, Antman EM, Buller CE, Creager MA, Ettinger SM, Faxon DP, Fuster V, Halperin JL, Hiratzka LF, Hunt SA, Lytle BW, Nishimura R, Ornato JP, Page RL, Tarkington LG, Yancy CW: ACC/AHA 2007 guidelines on perioperative cardiovascular evaluation and care for noncardiac surgery: a report of the ACC/AHA Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Writing Committee). *Circulation* 2007, **116**:418-9.
10. Lee TH, Marcantonio ER, Mangione CM, Thomas EJ, Polanczyk CA, Cook EF, Sugarbaker DJ, Donaldson MC, Poss R, Ho KK, Ludwig LE, Pedan A, Goldman L: Derivation and prospective validation of a simple index for prediction of cardiac risk of major noncardiac surgery. *Circulation* 1999, **100**:1043-9.
11. Alberti KG, Thomas DJ: The management of diabetes during surgery. *Br Anaesth* 1979, **51**:693-710.
12. Thygesen K, Alpert JS, White HD: Universal definition of myocardial infarction. *Eur Heart J* 2007, **28**:2525-38.
13. Node K, Inoue T: Postprandial hyperglycemia as an etiological factor in vascular failure. *Cardiovasc Diabetol* 2009, **8**:23.
14. Velanovich V: The value of routine preoperative laboratory testing in predicting the postoperative complications: a multivariate analysis. *Surgery* 1991, **109**:236-43.
15. McKee R, Scott M: The value of routine preoperative investigations. *Ann R Coll Surg Engl* 1987, **69**:160-2.

16. Dzankic S, Pastor D, Gonzalez C, Leung JM: The prevalence and predictive value of abnormal preoperative laboratory tests in elderly surgical patients. *Anesth Analg* 2001, **93**(2):301-8.
17. Feringa HH, Vidakovic R, Karagiannis SE, Dunkelgrun M, Elhendy A, Boersma E, van Sambeek MR, Noordzij PG, Bax JJ, Poldermans D: Impaired glucose regulation, elevated glycated haemoglobin and cardiac ischaemic events in vascular surgery patients. *Diabet Med* 2008, **25**(3):314-9.
18. Levitzky YS, Pencina MJ, D'Agostino RB, Meigs JB, Murabito JM, Vasan RS, Fox CS: Impact of impaired fasting glucose on cardiovascular disease: the Framingham Heart Study. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2008, **51**:264-70.
19. Unwin N, Shaw J, Zimmet P, Alberti KG: Impaired glucose tolerance and impaired fasting glycaemia: the current status on definition and intervention. *Diabet Med* 2002, **19**:708-723.
20. Edelstein SL, Knowler WC, Bain RP, Andres R, Barrett-Connor EL, Dowse GK, Haffner SM, Pettitt DJ, Sorkin JD, Muller DC, Collins VR, Hamman RF: Predictors of progression from impaired glucose tolerance to NIDDM: an analysis of six prospective studies. *Diabetes* 1997, **46**:701-710.
21. Barr EL, Zimmet PZ, Welborn TA, Jolley D, Magliano DJ, Dunstan DW, Cameron AJ, Dwyer T, Taylor HR, Tonkin AM, Wong TY, McNeil J, Shaw JE: Risk of cardiovascular and all-cause mortality in individuals with diabetes mellitus, impaired fasting glucose, and impaired glucose tolerance: the Australian Diabetes, Obesity, and Lifestyle Study (AusDiab). *Circulation* 2007, **116**:151-157.
22. Dunkelgrun M, Schreiner F, Schockman DB, Hoeks SE, Feringa HH, Goei D, Schouten O, Welten GM, Vidakovic R, Noordzij PG, Boersma E, Poldermans D: Usefulness of preoperative oral glucose tolerance testing for perioperative risk stratification in patients scheduled for elective vascular surgery. *Am J Cardiol* 2008, **101**(4):526-529.
23. van Kuijk JP, Dunkelgrun M, Schreiner F, Flu WJ, Galal W, van Domburg RT, Hoeks SE, van Gestel YR, Bax JJ, Poldermans D: Preoperative oral glucose tolerance testing in vascular surgery patients: long-term cardiovascular outcome. *Am Heart J* 2009, **157**(5):919-25.
24. Noordzij PG, Boersma E, Schreiner F, Kertai MD, Feringa HH, Dunkelgrun M, Dunkelgrun M, Bax JJ, Klein J, Poldermans D: Increased preoperative glucose levels are associated with perioperative mortality in patients undergoing non-cardiac non-vascular surgery. *Eur J Endocrinol* 2007, **156**:137-142.
25. Hatzakorjian R, Bui H, Carvalho G, Pi Shan WL, Sidhu S, Schricker T: Fasting blood glucose levels in patients presenting for elective surgery. *Nutrition* 2011, **27**:298-301.
26. The DECODE Study Group: Age- and sex-specific prevalences of diabetes and impaired glucose regulation in 13 European cohorts. *Diabetes Care* 2003, **26**(1):61-9.

doi:10.1186/1475-2840-10-63

Cite this article as: Biteker et al.: Impaired fasting glucose is associated with increased perioperative cardiovascular event rates in patients undergoing major non-cardiothoracic surgery. *Cardiovascular Diabetology* 2011 **10**:63.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

